Section 4: Compound Words

4.1 General and Technical Compound Words

Many compound words tend to evolve from two words to a hyphenated word, and then to a closed compound. Some terms in the dictionary that are spelled as two words may now be hyphenated, and some hyphenated words now in the dictionary may now be spelled as one word. Sometimes two or three terms may be in current use.

There are several types of compound words: an open compound (spelled as two or more words), a hyphenated compound (spelled with one or more hyphens), and a closed compound (also called a solid compound and spelled as a single word). Words formed with prefixes—while not technically compound words—are sometimes included with them.

We have listed compound words commonly used within the department. For specific guidance on fishing gear, see Section 4.2 Fishing Gear. If you cannot find a term here or in the dictionary see Section 4.3, Hyphenating Nouns and Adjectives. Sources are listed at the end of this section.

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
Α		
above-mentioned (before-) add-on adipose-clipped	(adj) — avoid use of aforementioned (n/adj) the hatchery add-on allowed (adj) never abbreviate as ad-clipped	C 7.90; G 824b A C 5.92
age at maturity age-at-maturity age class (group) ^{2, 3} age-weight-length	 (n) their age at maturity was (adj) age-at-maturity studies (n/adj) - two words (adj) - hyphenated 	C 5.92 C 5.92; G 816a W; R
age terms	 (adj) — scientific writing style does not spell out numbers: a 3-year-old bear, the 5-year-old salmon, 8- to 10-year-olds general writing style spells out the numbers 1–9: a group of eight- to ten-year-olds, the boy was four years old, a seven-year-old car 	C 7.90
all-terrain (vehicle) angler-day (-hour) areawide ⁴ at-risk (wildlife) audiotape	 (n) – hyphenated (n) – hyphenated (n/adj) the distribution will be <i>areawide</i> (adj) – hyphenated (n) – one word 	C 5.92 C 7.90(2); G 820b A W; A
В		
backcountry backtrack backwater	(n/adj) — one word (v) — one word (n/adj) — one word	W; A W; A W; A

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
baseline ²	(adj) – one word	W
bear-baiting	(adj) — the bear-baiting station	C 7.90(1)
bear baiting	(n) – two words, not hyphenated	01.00(1)
bear-viewing	(adj) — the <i>bear-viewing</i> station	C 7.90(1)
bear viewing	(n) - two words, not hyphenated	01.00(1)
benefit-cost (cost-benefit)	(adj) the benefit-cost ratio	C 7.90; G 806, 818
bi (words)	(prefix) — one word, <i>biweekly</i>	C 7.90(3); G 833a
bio (words)	(n/adj) – usually one word	C 7.90(3); G 835
bird watcher	(n) – two words	C 7.90(3), G 835
boat day ³		C 7.90; G 818a
bottomfish ²	(n/adj) — two words (n/adj) — one word	C 7.90, G 8188 R
		R
bottomwater	(n/adj) — one word	
break up	(v) the ice began to <i>break up</i> in	W
breakup	(n) breakup occurred in	W; A
broad-leaved	(adj) – hyphenate	W; A
broodstock ²	(n/adj) – one word	W
brood year ³	(n/adj) – two words	G 818a
buyback	(n/adj) encourage a <i>buyback</i> program	R
bycatch	(n/adj) – one word	G 833a; T
С	(v) – avoid (see Section 6)	
_		
cannot	(v) – one word	W; A
capture-mark-recapture	(adj) – use an en dash	
capture-mark-resight	(adj) – use an en dash	
carryover	(n) the carryover was substantial	Α
catch-and-release	(n/adj) – hyphenate	C 7.90; T; G 828
catch-at-age	(n/adj) – hyphenate	C 7.90
catcher-only	(n/adj) — hyphenate	C 7.90; T; G 806
catcher-processor	(n/adj) – use an en dash	C 7.90
catcher-seller	(n/adj) — use an en dash	C 7.90
catch-per-unit-effort	(adj) — hyphenate	
catch per unit effort	(n) — without hyphens	Т
centerline	(n) the road's centerline	R
charter boat	(n) our charter boat is	C 7.90; G 801
charterboat	(adj) the charterboat captain	Т
checkstation	(n/adj) – one word	Т
chi-square	(n/adj) — hyphenate, or use symbol χ^2	A; R
chlorophyll a	(n) chlorophyll a was	Т;
chlorophyll-a	(adj) chlorophyll-a data	Т;
cleanup	(n/adj) the oil spill <i>cleanup</i> was difficult	А
clean up	(phrasal) they will need to clean up the	А
clearcut	(n/adj/v) – one word if used in relation to forests	R
clear water	(n) in <i>clear</i> water	C 7.90; G 801
clearwater	(adj) clearwater species normally	Τ
co (words)	(prefix) almost always one word (cochair, coauthor,	
· · · · /	coworker; however, co-owner)	C 7.90(3); G 835
coastline	(n/adj) – one word	W; A
	(adj) – one word	C 7.90(2); G 820b
coastwide		T; G 827a
coastwide ⁴	(n/adi) — do not hyphenate ³	
coded wire tag ⁵	(n/adj) - do not hyphenate3	
	(n/adj) — do not hyphenate ³ (v) were coded-wire-tagged ³ (n) they occur in cold waters of	G 811–812 W; A

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
common property cost-effective cost-recovery	(n/adj) — two words, no hyphen (adj) — hyphenate (adj) — hypenate, <i>cost-recovery</i> fishing	R; G 818a G
cost recovery	(au) – hypenate, cost recovery hanning (n) – returns include fish caught for cost recovery	
crabmeat	(n) — one word	R
crossbreed	(n) – one word	W
crossroad	(n) – one word	W
cub(s) of the year	(n/adj) – do not hyphenate	T; G 818c
D		
database	(n/adj) – one word	R; A
data set ³	(n) — two words	R
deadloss	(n) — one word	Т
deep-sea	(n) – hyphenate	R
deep water	(n) live in deep water	W
deepwater	(adj) these deepwater seines	W
divisionwide ⁴	(adj) — one word	C 7.90(2); G 820b
die-off/die off downrange	(n) — hyphenate, (v) — two words	W
downriver	(adj) — one word (adj/adv) the <i>downriver</i> camp is	W; A
downstream	(adj/adv) the downstream camp is	W; A
drainagewide ⁴	(adj) – one word	C 7.90(2)
_		
E		
early run	(n) the <i>early run</i> was	C 7.90(1), G 816a
early-run	(adj) the early-run Chinook	G 816a, 814
ear tag	(n) the ear tag read	C 7.90(1); G 816a
eartagged	(v/adj) they eartagged the bears	C 7.90(1); G 816a
east side	(n) fisheries on the east side	C 7.90(1); G 816a
eastside	(adj) the eastside catch was	W
ecotourism	(n) – one word	W
eelgrass	(n) - one word	W 0.801
egg take	(n) the egg take began on (adj) egg-take operations will continue	G 801 C 7.90(1); G 816a
egg-take elect	(adj) Governor-elect Smith	G 808b
electrofishing	(n) — one word	W
e-mail	(n) – hyphenate	W
en route	(adv/adj) – two words	W
even-year	(adj) the even-year returns are	G 816a, 814
ex- (words)	(adj) ex-partner (see Section 6)	C 7.90(2); G 808b
exvessel	(adj) — one word	C 7.90(2)
F		
F-test	(n/v/adj) - hyphenate phrase, italicize F	Т
field test ²	(n) conduct a <i>field</i> test	R
field-test	(v) to field-test the equipment	Α
fieldwork	(n) budget expenditures on fieldwork	A; R
filter feeder	(n) — two words	W
TUTOR TOODUDO		

filter-feeding

(adj) - hyphenate

C 7.90(1)

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
finclip	(adj∕v) – one word	Т
finfish	(n/adj) – one word	W: A
firsthand	(adv) – one word	Ŵ
fish farming ³	(n/adj) – two words	R
fish ladder ³	(n/adj) – two words	W; R
fish meal ³	(n/adj) – two words	W
fish pass ³	(n/adj) – two words	T; G 818a
fishway	(n/adj) – one word	W
fish wheel ³	(n/adj) – two words	W; R
fixed-wing	(adj) – hyphenate	R
flightseeing	(n) — one word, similar to sightseeing	Oxford English
floodplain	(n) — one word	A; W
floodwater	(n) — one word	W
fly-fishing	(n/adj) – hyphenate	A; R
follow-up	(n/adj) a follow-up meeting;	
up	but we need to <i>follow up</i> with a meeting	C 7.90(1); G 815a
food/bait fishery	(adj) the food/bait herring fishery	T; G 295a
food chain	(n) - two words	W
foot snare	(n) the bear was caught in a foot snare	G 818a
foot-snaring	(v) – foot-snaring is now legal	C 7.90(1)
forestland	(n) — one word	W
fork length	(n/adj) – two words	W
freeze-up	(n) the <i>freeze-up</i> occurred in (do not use as a verb)	W
fresh water	(n) most species live in fresh water	C 7.90(1); G 816a
freshwater	(adj) most freshwater species are	W; A
frost line	(n) – two words	W, A A: R
full time		,
	(n) we worked the <i>full time</i> allowed	W; R
full-time	(adj/adv) all worked <i>full-time</i>	W; R
furbearer	(n) — one word	W; A
G		
goodness of fit	(n) they examined goodness of fit	C 7.90(1); G 831a
goodness-of-fit	(adj) goodness-of-fit analysis	T; G 831a
grasslands	(n) — one word	W
greenbelt	(n) — one word	W
groundfish	(n/adj) – one word	W
groundwater	(n) — one word	W
н		
hand-held	(adj) the hand-held unit is	A; G 814, 816a
handmade	(adj/adv) – one word	A; W
handwritten	(adj) – one word	R
harvest per unit effort	(n) the harvest per unit effort was	Т
harvest-per-unit-effort	(adj) – hyphenate, the harvest-per-unit-effort forms	
hard-on-bottom	(adj) hard-on-bottom trawling	Т
harvest stock	(n) - two words	
hatchery stock	(n/adj) – two words	
hatchery-produced	(adj) – hatchery-produced chum salmon	C 7.90(1)
haulout	(n) — one word; the harbor seals' haulout site	T; G 803d
haulout	(v) two words: the seals have out on the rocks	т

(v) - two words; the seals *haul out* on the rocks

Т

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
herring sac roe fishery	(n) not sac roe herring fishery	Т
headwaters	(n) one word	W; A
high-profile	(adj) — hyphenate	C 7.90(1)
high-ranking	(adj) – hyphenate	C 7.90(1); G 822a
high seas ³	(n/adj) – two words	R; W
homemade	(adj/adv) – one word	A; W
home page ³	(n/adj) – two words	A: G 801
home port ³	(n/adj) – two words	W; R
hydroacoustic	(n/adj) – one word (see sonar)	Т
0		
icebound	(adj) — one word, <i>icebound</i> seas	W
icecap	(n) — one word	W
ice field	(n) — two words	W
ice-free	(adj) — hyphenate, <i>ice-free</i> migration corridor	C 7.90(1)
ice-out	(n/adj) — hyphenate	W
ice pack	(n) — two words	W
in-depth	(adj) — hyphenate	A; R
in-house	(adj) — hyphenate	A; R
inperiod	(adj) - one word, inperiod closures are frequent	Т
inriver	(adj) — one word	C 7.90(3); G 833a
in season	(n) the strategy in season	G 801
inseason ²	(adj) the inseason strategy	W
inshore	(adj) – one word	W: R
in-state	(adj/n) meaning within the state	C 7.90(1); G 813
instate	(v) meaning to install	W; R
instream	(adj) – one word	C 7.90(3); G 833a
inter (prefix)	(prefix) generally requires no hyphen	W
interim-use permit	(adj) modifies a noun	C 7.90(1)
intertidal	(adj) – one word	R; A
in utero	(adv/adj) – two words	W
0		
lakeshore	(n/adj) – one word	A; R
land-and-shoot	(adj) the land-and-shoot concept	G 831b
land-based	(adj) land-based mammals	C 7.90(1)
landform	(n) – one word	W
land birds	(n) – two words	Т
landlocked	(adj) – one word	W; A
landowner	(n/adj) – one word	W; A
late run	(see early run)	
lay off	(v) they will <i>lay off</i> three people	W
layoff	(adj/n) no <i>layoffs</i> will occur	W; R
legal size	(n) crab of legal size were	C 7.90; G 801
legal-size	(adj) legal-size crabs were	W; A; R
length-at-age	(n/adj) – hyphenate	C 7.90(1); G 804c
length-weight	(n/adj) – hyphenate	C 6.85; G 818b
length-weight	(adj) – use an en dash when two or more elements	
iongui-weight		0.0.05

are open compounds or hyphenated compounds C 6.85

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
life cycle	(n) — two words	W
life form	(n) – two words	W
life history ³	(n/adj) – two words	C 7.90; G 801
life stage ³	(n/adj) – two words	C 7.90; G 801
limited entry	(n/adj) – two words	T; G 801; 818a
long distance	(n) — from a <i>long distance</i> away	W
long-distance	(adj) — long-distance migration	A
long term (time)	(n) in the long term	G 801
long-term (-time)	(adj) the long-term effects	W; A; R
low-lying	(adj) — low-lying areas	W
Μ		
macrohabitats	(n) — one word	W
mail-out	(adj) — mail-out survey	W
mainstem	(n/adj) <i>mainstem</i> spawning grounds	Т
mark-recapture	(adj) — use an en dash	G 806, 811a
mark-recovery ⁵	(adj) — use an en dash	G 814, 816a
meltwater	(n) – one word	W
microhabitats	(n) – one word	
mid ⁶	(adj)	R
mid eye to tail fork ⁷	(n/adj)	G 801
midpoint	(n) – one word	C 7.90(3)
mixed stock ³	(n/adj) – two words	T; G 818a
moving average ³	(n/adj) – two words	G 818a; T
multi (words)	(n/adj) – usually one word	C 7.90(3); G 833a; W
mudflat	(n) – one word	W
muzzleloader	(n) muzzleloaders were allowed in	A; R
muzzleloading	(adj) muzzleloading rifles were	A; R
Ν		
nearshore	(adj) the nearshore fishery was	W; R
net pen	(n) fry reared in <i>net pens</i> are	C 7.90(1); G 801
net-pen	(adj) net-pen rearing was	C 7.90(1); G 814, 816
now shall/ald shall	(adi) use any as an adjective	C 7 86 C 816a

net pen	(n) fry reared in net pens are	C 7.90(1); G 801
net-pen	(adj) net-pen rearing was	C 7.90(1); G 814,
new-shell/old-shell	(adj) — use only as an adjective	C 7.86; G 816a
newsworthy	(adj) — one word	W; A
non (prefix) ⁸	(prefix) – words prefixed by non are usually one word	R; G 833a, 838
non-Alaskan ⁸	(n/adj) include non-Alaskan workers	G 838
nonindigenous ⁸	(adj) nonindigenous stock	G 833a
nonlocal ⁸	(adj) — one word	G 833a
non-Native ⁸	(n) — hyphenate when referring to nonaboriginal	
	people of Alaska	G 838
nonnative ⁸	(adj) is a nonnative species in	W; G 833a
nonnavigable ⁸	(adj) in nonnavigable waters	G 833a
nonrural ⁸	(adj) – one word	G 833a
nonresident ⁸	(n/adj) – one word	A
northernmost	(adj) – one word	W

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
0		
odd-year	(adj) odd-year harvests have been	C 7.86; G 816a
off-road	(adj) — hyphenate	A
offshore	(adj) the offshore fishery was	W; A
off-site	(adj) off-site analysis	A
oilfield	(n) – one word	W
old growth	(n) the old growth is	C 7.90(1); G 801
old-growth	(adj) old-growth forests displayed	G 816a
on board	(adv) the man was on board when	C 7.90(2); G 831a
onboard	(adj) onboard processors will	A; R
ongoing	(adj) – one word	W; A
online ²	(adj) – one word	A
onshore	(adj) the onshore team set up	W; A
on-site	(adj) on-site investigation	A
outmigrate ^{2, 9} (emigrate)	(v) salmon <i>outmigrate</i> when	A; G 833a
outmigrating ^{2,9} (emigrating)	(adj) the outmigrating fry were	A
outmigration ^{2, 9} (emigration)	(n) during the outmigration	A
overfish, overharvest,		
overwinter, etc.	(v) — one word	W; G 833a
Р		
P-value	(n/adj) — hyphenate, italicize P	Т
parent year	(n) in the parent year, when	C 7.90(1); G 801
parent-year	(adj) parent-year numbers were	G 814
part-time	(adj/adv) offered a part-time position	W; G 816a
passthrough	(n/adj) passthrough funds were	R
baycheck	(n) – one word	W; A
bayday	(n) — one word	W; A
bellet group	(n) — two words	C 7.90(1)
pellet-group	(adj) pellet-group survey	C 7.90(1)
personal use	(adj/n) the personal use fishery	G 818a
point of sale	(n) — three words	G 801c
point-of-sale	(adj) – hyphenate	C 5.92(1), 7.86
policymaker	(n) – one word	W
postaudit/preaudit ⁸	(n) – one word	C 7.90(3); G 833a
postfire ⁸	(adj) – one word	C 7.90(3)
posthunt ⁸	(adj) – one word	C 7.90(3)
postrecruit/prerecruit ⁸	(n/adj) — one word	C 7.90(3)
postseason/preseason ⁸	(n/adj) – one word	W; G 833a
poststatehood/prestatehood		C 7.90(3); G 833a
pot lift ³	(n/adj) – two words	G 801
preemergent/preemergence	(n/adj) – one word	W; C 7.90(3);
arabanyaat	(n/adi) and word	G 833a, 835
preharvest	(n/adj) – one word	C 7.90(3)
prerelease	(n/adj) – one word	W; G 833a W
present-day	(adj) – present-day events	
presmolt proofread	(n) — one word (v) — one word	C 7.90(3); G 833a
		W; R
put-and-take ⁹	(n/adj) – hyphenate	G 828b, 831b

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
Q		
—		
quasi ¹⁰	(adj)	R
R		
radio collar ¹¹	(n) — two words	T; G 801, 811a
radiocollar ¹¹	(adj/v) – one word; to radiocollar goats	0.004
radio tag ¹¹	(n) – two words; the <i>radio tag</i> stored the data	G 801
radiotag ¹¹	(adj/v) – one word; we radiotagged the birds	T; G 811a
radiotelemetry ¹¹	(n) – one word	T; G 811a
radiotelemetric ¹¹	(adj) – one word	G 801a
radiotracking ¹¹ radiotracked ¹¹	(adj) – one word; they tested <i>radiotracking</i> devices	T; G 811a
	(v/adj) — one word; we radiotracked the bears	T; G 811a
radio wave rain forest	(n) – two words	T; G 801a W
recolonize ¹²	(n) – two words (v) – one word	W
reef fish ^{2, 3}		R
regionwide ⁴	(n) – two words	
0	(adj) – one word	C 7.90(2); G 820b C 7.90(1); G 804c
return-at-age	(n/adj) – hyphenate	G 815a
returns per spawner	(n) when returns per spawner are known	C 7.90(1)
return-per-spawner ridge top ³	(adj) return-per-spawner analysis (n) — two words	C 7.90(1) T
right of way	(n) - three words	A
riverbank	(n) — one word	R
riverbank	(n) — one word (n) — one word	R
river mile ³	(n) – two words	Т
river mouth	(n) fisheries at the <i>river mouth</i>	G 801
river-mouth	(adj) river-mouth fisheries	C 7.86; G 816a
mermoull	(auj) mer-mouth nonenes	C 1.50, G 810a

river-mouth roadside rod hour³ roundtrip rulemaking rump fat run of origin run-of-origin runoff

S

sac roe ³	(n/adj) - two words	G 818
salmon (ocean) ranching ³	(n) – two words	G 801
salt marsh	(n/adj) – two words	W
salt water	(n) live in salt water	W; A
saltwater	(adj) saltwater species may	W; A
same-day-airborne9	(adv) — hyphenate	Т
sandbar	(n) – one word	W
scale pattern ³	(n/adj) – two words	T; G 818a
seabed	(n) — one word	W
seabird	(n) — one word	W
seafloor	(n) — one word	W

(n/adj) a roadside attraction

(n) we determined run of origin

(adj) run-of-origin determinations

(n/adj) - two words

(n/adj) - one word

(n) – one word (n/adj) – two words

(n) - one word

W: R

A T

Т

W

G 818a

G 831a

C 7.86; G 831a

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
sea duck ³	(n/adj) - two words	W: A
sea-fresh	(adj/v) – hyphenate	G 811a, 813
seagoing	(adj) seagoing trout are	W; A
sea level	(n) — two words	W
sea life	(n) - two words	Ŵ
sea run	(n) the sea run was less	G 801
sea-run	(adj) sea-run cutthroat trout are	W
seawater	(n/adj) — one word	W; A
seedstock ²	(n/adj) – one word	W
semiremote ¹³	(adj) – one word	Ŵ
shallow-water	(n/adj) a shallow-water trawl	G 816a
shell-aging ⁹	(adj) – hyphenate (see Section 6, aging)	G 811a
shellfish	(n) - one word	W; A
shellfishery	(adj) – one word	W; A
horebased	(adj) – one word	T
shorebird	(n) — one word	Ŵ
shoreline	(n) – one word	W; A
short-lived	(adj) – it was a short-lived plan	W
short term	(n) in the short term	R; W
short-term	(adj) short-term memory	W
sightability	(n) - one word	Т
size-selective	(n/adj) – hyphenate	G 820a
size (sex) selectivity	(n) indicated size selectivity was	G 815a
size-selectivity	(adj) size-selectivity bias was	0.0100
skip molt	(n) skip molts are usually	G 801
skip-molt	(adj/v) skip-molt crab are	G 811a, 816a
snowbound	(adj) – one word	W
snow cover	(n) less snow cover	A
snowdepth	(n) — one word	
snowfall	(n) - one word	W
snowfield	(n) — one word	W
snow line	(n) above the snow line	A
snowmachine	(n) — one word	G 805b
snowmelt	(n) - one word	W
snowpack	(n) - one word	W
soak-hour	(n/adj) – hyphenate	G 809a
socioeconomic	(adj) the socioeconomic trend	W: G 833a
oft shell	(n) soft shells were found	G 801
soft-shell	(adj) soft-shell crabs are	W; A
sonar (words)14	(n) – two words, a thermal recorder was used	Т
()	(adj) — side-scan sonar, thermal-chart recorder	T
southernmost	(adj) – one word	W
spawned-out	(adj) spawned-out salmon	G
spawn on kelp (or roe)	(n) they harvested spawn on kelp	G 831a
spawn-on-kelp (or roe)	(adj) the pound spawn-on-kelp fishery	
spike-fork	(n/adj) – hyphenate	G 818b
sport fish	(n/adj) sport fish species	W; R
sport fishing	(v/adj) not sportsfishing, or sportfishing	W; C 7.90, G 805a
standby	(n/adj) – one word	W
statewide ⁴	(adj) – one word	W; G 820b
stock of origin	(see run of origin)	,
streambank	(n) - one word	Т
streambed	(n) – one word	A; R

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
streamflow	(n) — one word	W
stream life	(n) the stream life was	G 801
stream-life	(adj) stream-life studies	C 7.86; G 814, 816a
streamside	(adj) – one word	W
subadult	(n/adj) – one word	C 7.90(3)
subalpine	(adj) – one word	C 7.90(3)
subarea	(n/adj) – one word	C 7.90(3), R
subdistrict	(n) – one word	C 7.90(3)
sublegal	(n/adj) use undersized or undersize adults	Т
subpopulations	(n) – one word	C 7.90(3)
subspecies	(n) — one word	C 7.90(3)
subtidal	(adj) – one word	C 7.90(3)
summertime	(n) — one word	W
Super Cub	(n) – two words	
system-wide	(adj) — hyphenate	C 7.90(1)
tag-recovery⁵	(adj) — use an en dash	G 814, 816a
tag-recovery ⁵	(adj) — use an en dash	G 814, 816a
tar balls ³	(n) — two words	R
thermal mark(ing) ⁵	(n/adj) — two words/no hyphen	G 827a
tidal flat	(n) not <i>tide flat</i>	A
tideland	(n/adj) – one word	W; A
tidemark	(n/adj) — one word	W; A
tide pool	(n) - two words	W
tidewater	(n/adj) – one word	W; A
tideway	(n/adj) – one word	W; A
timberline	(n) – one word	W
time frame ³	(n) – two words	A; R
timeline ³	(n) – one word	G 801
time series ³	(n/adj) – two words	W; R; G 818a
townet	(n/adj) – one word	W
t-test	(n/adj) – hyphenate phrase, italicize t	T
trade-off	(n) — the education vs. experience trade-off	W
trapline	(n) – one word	W
tree line	(n) – two words	W
treetop	(n) — one word	W
turn around	(v) when you <i>turn around</i>	W
turnaround	(n) the sudden <i>turnaround</i> caused	W; R

ultrasound underescapement underway unitwide ^{2.3} unoiled upriver up to date up-to-date	 (n) - one word (n) - one word (adj/adv) - one word (n/adj) - one word (adj) - one word (adj/adv) - one word (n) the data were up to date (adj) the up-to-date data 	W G 833a W; R G 820b W W; A G 813
U.S./Canada	(adj) — use periods and a slash	T; C 6.113

Word	(Form) Example of Usage	Source ¹
W		
wastewater	(n) — one word	W
water bird(s)	(n) – two words	W; A
water body ³	(n) – two words	Т
waterborne	(adj) – one word	W; A
watercourse	(n/adj) – one word	W; A
watercraft	(n) – one word	W
waterfowl	(n/adj) – one word	W; A
waterland	(n/adj) – one word	
watershed	(n/adj) – one word	W; A
webmaster	(n) – one word	W
web page	(n) — two words	G 847f
Web site	(n) – two words, for formal use capitalize Web site	G 847f
website	(n) – one word for informal use	G 847f
westside	(see eastside)	
widespread	(adj) – one word	W; A
wildfire	(n) – one word	W
wildlife	(n) – one word	
wild stock	(n/adj) – two words	Т
wild type	(n) the wild types are	R, A
wild-type	(adj) wild-type descriptions	
windswept	(adj) – one word	W
wintertime	(n) – one word	W
workday	(n) – one word	W; A
worker-hour/worker-month	(avoid man-hour/man-month, see Section 11.3)	W; A; G 806
worker-hour (-month)	(n) – hyphenate	G 806a
workload	(n) – one word	W
work station ³	(n) – two words	R
Y		
year class ³	(n/adj) – two words	G 818a
year-round	(adj) — year-round growth cycle	G
volk sac	(n) the yolk sac is	W; A
yolk-sac	(adj) the <i>yolk-sac</i> fry are	G 814

¹ Sources:

young-of-year

- A The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th edition. Houghton Mifflin Co. (2006).
- G The Gregg Reference Manual, 10th edition. McGraw-Hill (2005).

(n/adj) - hyphenate

- C Chicago Manual of Style, 15th edition. University of Chicago Press (2003).
- R Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd edition. Random House, Inc. (1993).
- T The word is not in the dictionary. This spelling is consistent with common technical usage or similar terms.
- W Webster's Third New International Dictionary. Merriam Webster, Inc. (2002).
- ² The word is in the dictionary, but we decided not to use the dictionary spelling because it does not appear consistent with established usage within the profession or is inconsistent with similar terms also in the dictionary.

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- ³ Do not hyphenate well-established common compound words used as nouns, like *age class*, or *brood year*; because these terms are easily grasped as a unit, they do not require a hyphen. Section 4 provides more details.
- ⁴ Words with the suffix *wide*, as in *coastwide*, *divisionwide*, *drainagewide*, *regionwide*, *statewide*, and *islandwide* are not hyphenated, except after proper nouns (Chicago-wide), after most words of three or more syllables (university-wide), or simply to avoid a cumbersome appearance.
- ⁵ Some stand-alone adjectives modify established compound nouns; with *gifted public orator*, for example, *gifted* modifies *public orator* (it is not *gifted public* that modifies *orator*). Likewise, *thermal mark code* or *thermal marking system* are not hyphenated because *thermal* presumably modifies *mark code* or *marking system*. Likewise, in noun/adjective use *coded* modifies *wire tag* and is not hyphenated. As a verb, however, it is really *coded wire tag-tagged*; *tag* is dropped to avoid needless redundancy, hence, *coded-wire-tagged*. If you have introduced the CWT abbreviation, you may use *CWT-tagged* (but never *CWT'd*). Another and often better verb is simply *tag/tagged*. However, with *mark* or *tag-recovery data*, there is an en dash (denotes equal terms) because the compound is modifying *data*, so it would then become *thermal mark -recovery data*. As a general rule, when a compound noun is used as a compound adjective, the decision to hyphenate will depend on the familiarity of the reader with the item in question. Thus a term like *brood year chart* would not be hyphenated if you feel the reader is familiar with the concept of *brood year*. However if your reader could misinterpret the meaning of *brood year table*, write *brood-year table*.
- ⁶ Mid is a stand-alone word and combining form. American Heritage states that mid is normally joined to the following word or element without a space or hyphen: midpoint. However, if the second element begins with a capital letter it is separated with a hyphen: mid-May. ADF&G follows this policy, i.e., midafternoon, midcourse, midday, midgut, midleg, midline, midmorning, midnight, midpoint, midrange, midship, midstream, midsummer, midway, midweek, midwinter, and midyear. Gregg (Section 844) offers further guidance: Although a hyphen is not ordinarily used to set off the prefix mid, a hyphen normally follows mid in expressions involving numbers or capitalized word: during the mid-sixties, sailing in the mid-Atlantic in mid-June.
- ⁷ Lengths from mid eye to tail fork (METF) were... is the correct phrasing. Subsequently, use the acronym METF: METF lengths averaged . . . Avoid using mid-eye-to-tail-fork lengths or mid eye to tail fork lengths.
- ⁸ Words with the *non* or *post* prefix are seldom hyphenated unless they are combined with a word that normally begins with an uppercase proper noun (e.g., *non-Native*, *post-Vietnam*).
- ⁹ Jargon–consider using another term, or you may need to introduce and explain the term on first use unless addressing an audience familiar with the term.
- ¹⁰ Quasi is a stand-alone adjective used to modify nouns (quasi contract, quasi population). Quasi is also a combining form that is hyphenated to form an adjective or adverb (quasi-essential, quasi-legal, quasi-normally, quasi-governmental).
- Radio- words are either objects (nouns) or processes (adjectives or verbs). Objects are open (two words), and are not hyphenated, while processes have generally collapsed to the closed spelling (one word). For radio words, nouns serving as adjectives should retain their noun form (radio wave pattern), and participial adjectives (adjectives with -ed or -ing endings) should be one word (radiocollared bear, radiotagging analysis). For more examples see radio- words in Section 6 Watch-out Words.
- ¹² Prefix re should not be followed by a hyphen, except if needed to distinguish from words with same spelling but different meaning, e.g., to re-side my house, to re-sign the contract. When the prefix ends with "e" and the base word begins with the same letter, the hyphen is almost always omitted. Exceptions are *de-emphasize*, *de-energize*, *de-escalate*, *pre-engineered* and *pre-owned*.
- ¹³ The prefix semi generally follows the prefix/suffix rule of no hyphen, except when the prefix ends with an "i" or "a" and the base word starts with the same letter; in that case, use a hyphen to prevent misreading: *Ultra-active, intra-abdominal, semi-independent, anti-intellectual, multi-institutional.*
- ¹⁴ Sonar technologies have produced a number of compound words. As nouns, these should be two words; but as adjectives, hyphenate; e.g., wide-beam echoes, parallel-beam study, side-scan sonar, pan-and-tilt transducer, cross-sectional area, dual-channel recorder, thermal-chart recorder, split-beam, and dualfrequency.

4.2 Fishing Gear

Noun (Equipment)	Adjective	Verb	Noun (Person)
NET WORDS			
dip net drift gillnet ² driftnet ² fyke net gillnet ² landing net set gillnet ² setnet test net ¹ trammel net	dip net ¹ drift gillnet ² driftnet ¹ fyke net ¹ gillnet ¹ NA set gillnet ¹ setnet ¹ test-net ¹ trammel net ¹	 (to) dipnet¹ (to) drift gillnet (to) driftnet¹ NA (to) gillnet NA (to) set gillnet (to) setnet¹ NA NA NA 	dipnetter drift gillnetter NA gillnetter NA set gillnetter ¹ setnetter ¹ NA NA
TRAP WORDS			
fish trap minnow trap ¹	fish-trap ¹ minnow-trap ¹	NA NA	NA NA
TROLL WORDS			
dandyline¹ NA NA	dandyline hand troll ¹ power troll ¹	dandylining (to) hand troll ¹ (to) power troll ¹	dandyliner hand troller ¹ power troller ¹
SEINE WORDS			
beach seine haul seine purse seine	beach seine ¹ haul seine ¹ purse seine ¹	 (to) beach seine¹ (to) haul seine¹ (to) purse seine¹ 	NA haul seiner purse seiner
MISCELLANEOUS			
crab pot ¹ fishpound fish wheel herring pound ¹ jig line longline	crab pot ¹ fishpound ¹ fish wheel ¹ herring pound ¹ longline ²	NA NA NA (to) jig, jigging, jig fishing (to) longline ¹	crabber NA NA Jig fisher ¹ Iongliner

¹ Not in the dictionary (*The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Random House Unabridged Dictionary or Webster's Third New International Dictionary.*).

² The word was in the dictionary other than as shown here, but the committee opted to depart from the dictionary form. In such instances, the committee believed the dictionary form was not up to date and opted for a form more contemporary or consistent.

NA Inappropriate to use the word in this manner/form.

4.3 Hyphenating Nouns and Adjectives

Contemporary style minimizes hyphen use, except when needed to avoid ambiguity for the reader. Hyphens are used to separate numbers only when they are not inclusive, such as telephone numbers, Social Security numbers, and ISBN numbers.

Use this guide only when you cannot find the spelling in the dictionary or in this section. Determine the usage for the compound you are considering—noun, adjective, or verb. For a detailed analysis of compounds according to type refer to 7.90 in the *Chicago Manual of Style*, Sections 1 through 3, and the *Gregg Reference Manual*, Section 8.

a. Compound adjectives

Hyphens connect many compound adjectives, but not all. Hyphens are not used for compound nouns unless the noun is normally hyphenated (e.g., by-product, add-on).

Noun	Adjective
a gifted public orator a bifurcated cross section	a slow-moving bear cross-section diagram
an expensive by-product	a high-priced product
the harvest in an odd year	odd-year harvests

Usage-dependent adjectives can often be confusing. The confusion over compound adjectives often leave writers wondering whether to spell as two words, hyphenate, or close up as a single word.

Compound adjectives are hyphenated before the noun to clearly show that the two terms have become a single descriptor. Following the noun, ambiguity is unlikely, and the hyphen becomes unnecessary.

Before noun	After noun
a 200-yard bridge a 3-inch mesh gillnet a 50-year project a 3-year-old moose	a bridge 200 yards long spacing on the gillnet mesh was 3 inches a project of 50 years moose 3-years old (age terms are hyphenated in both noun and adjective forms)

Additionally, a number followed by an abbreviation of a measure is always open, and never hyphenated.

Use: 3 m stream Not: 3-m stream

b. Established compound nouns

In some cases, a compound adjective stands alone as a well-known compound word. In keeping with the trend to avoid unnecessary hyphens, established compounds are not hyphenated, unless it would cause confusion.

If the compound is not in the dictionary but is a technical compound word commonly used by your audience, treat it as an established compound noun and drop the hyphen, unless it would cause confusion.

Noun	Adjective
the high ebb tide	an ebb tide sample
targeted mixed stocks	the mixed stock fishery
the sea ducks were	sea duck regulations
Noun	Adjective
in this time series	the time series analysis
the standing crop	standing crop estimates
common property	a common property fishery
each brood year	brood year returns
the continental shelf	continental shelf break
sea ice in	sea ice edge

c. Meaning-dependent

Is the compound a noun or an adjective? For example, in the expression *positive level shifts*, *positive* is the adjective describing the compound noun *level shifts*, so no hyphen is needed. In the expression *level-shift outlier*, *level-shift* is a compound adjective describing *outlier*, so a hyphen is needed.

Noun	Adjective
a long term assignment (the term assignment is long)	a long-term assignment (the assignment is long term)
large vessel catch (the vessel catch was large)	large-vessel catch (catch by large vessels)

This sort of problem can occur with established compound nouns as well.

Noun	Adjective
high school attendance ¹	high-school attendance ¹
(high attendance at school)	(attendance in high school)
greater scaup nesting ¹	greater-scaup nesting ¹
(greater nesting of scaup)	(nesting by greater scaup)
small game reserves ¹	small-game reserves ¹
(small-sized game reserves)	(reserves for small game)

d. Phrasal adjectives

Phrasal adjectives (also called compound modifiers) are two or more words that function as a unit to modify a noun.

Generally, compound words and common phrases are hyphenated when they precede the noun they are modifying.

Jse:	step-by-step recovery	fast-swimming fish

If more than one phrasal adjective modifies a noun, hyphenation is especially important.

Use:	state-inspected assisted-living facility	high-pressure fast-track environment
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If the p	phrase follows the noun it modifies,	it is not generally hyphenated.
Use:	references that were out of date	recovering from an illness step by step

A phrasal adjective beginning with an adverb ending in *ly* is never hyphenated.

Use:	poorly constructed weir	Avoid:	poorly-constructed weir
Use:	other commonly used words	Avoid:	other commonly-used words

e. Complex phrases without hyphens

This group is composed of word combinations in which the compound could be the noun or the adjective without affecting the meaning and without certainty as to which two words actually form the compound. For example, in the combination *fuel flow meter*, does *fuel* modify *flow meter* or does *fuel-flow* modify *meter*? Either interpretation could be made and neither interpretation would affect the meaning. Therefore, in keeping with elimination of unnecessary hyphens, the hyphenless option is recommended. A few more examples:

coded wire tag ²	salmon run failures	thermal mark code
peak noise level	smolt biomass production	run timing information
scale pattern analysis	population model predictions	

For word groups like these, the hyphen is unnecessary and should usually be dropped; however, the hyphen can be added if the author or editor believes it would simplify reading. Once a decision is made, that decision should carry throughout the document and, if possible, in all other documents thereafter. Also, before dropping the hyphen, be sure the hyphen is truly irrelevant and does not create a different meaning. For example, ocean age determination (regarding salmon) could be interpreted as determining the ocean's age, so it is probably better to include the hyphen (ocean-age determination).

¹ Although the usage format is technically correct, the hyphenated forms look odd and the unhyphenated form may confuse your readers. Avoid the confusion by rephrasing similar to the parenthetic explanation.

² In noun/adjective use coded modifies wire tag and is not hyphenated. As a verb it is coded wire tag-tagged, but tag is dropped to avoid needless redundancy; hence, coded-wire-tagged; if you have introduced the CWT abbreviation, you may use CWT-tagged (but never CWT'd). Another and often better verb is simply tag/tagged. However, with mark – or tag – recovery data, there is an en-dash (denotes equal terms) because the compound is modifying data, so it would then become thermal mark – recovery data.